

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST)
COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF)
AN INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT)
BETWEEN U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS,)
INC. AND DAKOTA TELECOM, INC. AND)
DAKOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS,)
INC.)

**ORDER APPROVING
AMENDED NEGOTIATED
INTERCONNECTION
AGREEMENT**

TC97-126

On July 7, 1997, U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST) filed for approval by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) of the negotiated Interconnection Agreement dated June 17, 1997, between U S WEST and Dakota Telecom, Inc. and Dakota Telecommunications Systems, Inc. (collectively Dakota). The Commission approved it by Order dated August 27, 1997. On September 17, 1998, U S WEST filed for approval of an Amended Interconnection Agreement amending the June 17, 1997 agreement between it and Dakota Telecom, Inc.

On September 17, 1998, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of this filing to interested individuals and entities. The notice stated that any person wishing to comment on the parties' request for approval may do so by filing written comments with the Commission on or before October 7, 1998. Parties to the agreement had until October 26, 1998, to file written responses to the comments. No comments were received from interested individuals, entities or Commission staff.

At its regularly scheduled October 15, 1998, meeting, the Commission considered the Amended Interconnection Agreement. Commission staff recommended approval.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, and the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. Upon review of the agreement, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the Amended Interconnection Agreement between U S WEST and Dakota Telecom, Inc. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Commission approves the Amended Interconnection Agreement between U S WEST and Dakota Telecom, Inc.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 21st day of October, 1998.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.

By: Hildine Kaelbo

Date: 10/22/98

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
TELCO HOLDINGS, INC. D/B/A DIAL & SAVE)
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO)
PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS)
SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA)

ORDER GRANTING
CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORITY

TC97-127

On July 9, 1997, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission), in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3 and ARSD 20:10:24:02, received an application for a certificate of authority from Telco Holdings, Inc. d/b/a Dial & Save (Telco).

Telco seeks to provide intrastate interexchange telecommunications services. This application is pursuant to a corporate reorganization in which Dial & Save will be merged into Telco. Dial & Save will cease to exist after the merger is complete and Telco seeks a certificate of authority in its own name. A proposed tariff was filed by Telco. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On July 10, 1997, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of July 25, 1997, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled October 9, 1997, meeting, the Commission considered Telco's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-3 and ARSD 20:10:24:02 and 20:10:24:03. The Commission finds that Telco has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. Telco has, in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3, demonstrated sufficient technical, financial and managerial capabilities to offer telecommunications services in South Dakota. The Commission approves Telco's application for a certificate of authority. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that Telco's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted. It is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Telco shall file informational copies of tariff changes with the Commission as the changes occur.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 17th day of October, 1997.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.

By: Nellie Kalks

Date: 10/20/97

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner